Risk

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental

To reach out for another is to risk involvement

To expose one's feelings is to risk exposing one's true self

To place your ideas and dreams before the crowd is to risk loss

To love is to risk not being loved in return

To live is to risk dying

To hope is to risk despair

To try at all is to risk failure

But risk we must, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing

The man, the woman who risks nothing

Does nothing, has nothing, is a nothing

Death is nothing at all... I have only slipped away into the next room...I am I and you are you...whatever we were to each other that we are still. Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone; wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as was always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effect, without the ghost of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was; there is absolute unbroken continuity. What is this death but a negligible accident? Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near just around the corner, all is well.

Henry Scott Holland

FOOTPRINTS

ONE night I had a dream.

I dreamed I was walking along the beach with God and across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of foot prints in the sand, one belonged to me and the other to God.

When the last scene of my life flashed before us I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that at times along the path of life there was only one set of footprints.

I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of my life. This really bothered me and I questioned God about it. "God, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way but I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you most, you would leave me."

God replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never, never leave you during your times of trials and suffering. When you see only one set of footprints it was when I carried you"

ANON

If

If children live with anger
they learn to shout and fight

If children live with ridicule
they learn to hide their feelings

If children live with shame
they learn to feel guilt

If children are unfairly blamed
they see no reason to be truthful or honest

If children live with secrecy
they learn to fear the worst

BUT

If children live with tolerance
they learn to show patience and respect

If children live with praise
they learn to appreciate and value others

If children live with encouragement
they grow in confidence

If children live with fairness
they learn the value of truth and justice

If children live with security
they learn to trust

If children live with approval
they learn to like themselves

If children live with acceptance and friendship
they learn to give and receive love

AND FINALLY

If children can talk openly with their parents
they can be prepared for whatever the future holds.